

## Indicator Domain: UTILIZATION

### Indicator W.4. Percentage of Women of Child-Bearing Age (ages 18–44) Who Report Having a Visit to a Dentist or Dental Clinic in the Past Year

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#) (BRFSS)

#### 1. Description

Percentage of women of child-bearing age (ages 18–44) who report having a visit to a dentist or dental clinic in the past year

- **Numerator:** Number of women who reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic within the past year
- **Denominator:** Number of female respondents, ages 18–44 who answered core question C07.01; exclude unknowns and refusals

#### Section 7: Oral Health, Question C07.01

Including all types of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists, how long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason?

[Response options only read if necessary.]

- Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)
- Within the past 2 years (1 year but less than 2 years ago)
- Within the past 5 years (2 years but less than 5 years ago)
- 5 or more years ago
- Don't know/not sure (do not read)
- Never (do not read)
- Refused (do not read)

#### 2. Framework Domain

##### Utilization

- Use of services: Provision and utilization of services by a group of individuals identified by enrollment in a health plan or through use of clinical services<sup>28</sup>

#### 3. Level of Reporting

This is a state-level, population-based measure of adults ages 18 and older residing within the state during the surveillance year.

---

<sup>28</sup> National Quality Measures Clearinghouse. 2019. [Guidelines and Measures](#) [webpage].

#### 4. Data Source

BRFSS uses a complex sampling design. When reporting this measure, states should use the weighted data provided to them by CDC.

#### 5. Data Elements

Critical Data Elements	
Core Section 7: Oral Health	
2018 Surveillance Year, Section 7, Question C07.01.	Including all types of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists, how long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason?
Core Section 8: Demographics	
C08.01.	What is your sex? OR What was your sex at birth? Was it . . .
C08.02.	What is your age?
Priority Stratifications	
Age	18–24 Years 25–34 Years 35–44 Years
Race/ethnicity, collapsed	Hispanic Non-Hispanic White Non-Hispanic Black Non-Hispanic other/multiple race
Optional Stratification Elements <sup>29</sup>	
Race/ethnicity, detailed	Hispanic Non-Hispanic White Non-Hispanic Black Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native Non-Hispanic Asian Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic other/multiple race
Educational attainment	Less than high school High school graduate More than high school
Health insurance (current status)	Insured Uninsured
Marital status	Married Unmarried/other
Household income/poverty <sup>30</sup>	<\$15,000 \$15,000–\$24,999

<sup>29</sup> Adapted from Health Resource and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. 2019. [Federally Available Data \(FAD\) Resource Document](#). Rockville, MD: Health Resource and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

<sup>30</sup> The FAD document states: “Missing data exceeded 10%; interpret with caution.”

	\$25,000–\$49,999 ≥\$50,000
Language (language of survey administration)	English Non-English
Urban-rural residence <sup>31</sup> [Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) defined by Census Bureau]	MSA, central city MSA, non-central city Non-MSA
Disability	Activity limitations No activity limitations

## 6. Measure Guidance

When reporting on this measure, states should use the weighted data provided to them by CDC and report only if the state met the response rate threshold specified by CDC.

## 7. Measure Calculation: Detailed Specification

**Note:** The analyst must set the correct strata and weight variables. Strata are defined by the variable `_STSTR` and the primary weight is `_LLCPWT`, the weight for individuals in the combined landline and cellular telephone samples.

### A. Denominator

Determine the number of women ages 18–44 who answered question C07.01:

**Step 1:** Identify number of respondents to question C07.01.

**Step 2:** Restrict to female respondents.

**Step 3:** Restrict to respondents ages 18–44.

**Step 4:** Exclude those who refused to answer, had a missing answer, or answered “don’t know/not sure.”

**YOU NOW HAVE THE DENOMINATOR (DEN) COUNT: Female respondents ages 18–44 who answered core question C07.01**

### B. Numerator

**Step 1:** Determine the subset of the denominator (number of female respondents ages 18–44) who reported having been to the dentist or dental clinic “within the past year (any time less than 12 months ago).”

**YOU NOW HAVE THE NUMERATOR (NUM) COUNT: Female respondents ages 18–44 who reported having a dental visit within the past year**

<sup>31</sup> The FAD document states: “Missing data exceeded 10%; interpret with caution.”

### **C. Denominator Exclusions/Exceptions**

Missing responses, don't know/not sure responses, and refusals.

### **D. Reporting Stratifications**

- a. Age (18–24, 25–34, 35–44)
- b. Race/ethnicity (Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic other/multiple race)

### **E. Optional Reporting Stratifications**

- a. Detailed race/ethnicity if sample size permits (Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic Asian, Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic other race, Non-Hispanic multiple race)
- b. Educational attainment (less than high school, high school graduate, more than high school)
- c. Health insurance (insured, uninsured)
- d. Household income (<\$15,000, \$15,000–\$24,999, \$25,000–\$49,999)
- e. Marital status (married, unmarried/other)
- f. Language (English, non-English)
- g. Urban-rural residence (MSA central city, MSA non-central city, non-MSA)

### **F. Measure Score**

Report:

- a. Number of individuals excluded from denominator, unweighted
- b. Number in denominator (after exclusions), unweighted sample count
- c. Number in numerator, unweighted sample count
- d. Number in denominator, weighted
- e. Number in numerator, weighted
- f. Measure score (NUM/DEN), weighted, with 95% confidence interval
- g. Measure score, weighted, stratified by [priority reporting stratification] with 95% confidence intervals and unweighted denominator count
- h. Measure score, weighted, stratified by [optional reporting stratification] with 95% confidence intervals and unweighted denominator count
- k. Response rate for overall survey

### **Reporting notes:**

- States should follow their own data-suppression methodologies, provide a reporting note for any cells that fall below the data-suppression threshold, and specify the threshold value. For example: NR=Not reportable due to respondent count of less than XX.
- Any indicator or indicator stratification with a data element missing more than 10% of data should explicitly note that the indicator/stratification should be interpreted with caution and identify the percentage of missing data for the relevant data element(s).

## 8. Limitations

The oral health module is a rotating core that is included in the BRFSS core questionnaire only in even-numbered years. As with all self-reported sample surveys, BRFSS data might be subject to systematic error resulting from noncoverage (e.g., on college campuses or in the military), nonresponse (e.g., refusal to participate in the survey or to answer specific questions), or measurement (e.g., social desirability or recall bias). To address some of these potential concerns, BRFSS began including cellular-telephone-only users in the 2011 data collection.<sup>32</sup>

## 9. Additional Notes

This indicator is adapted from CDC's Chronic Disease Indicators, Oral Health Indicator 1.1, "Visits to dentist or dental clinic among adults age  $\geq$  18 years."<sup>33</sup> This maternal and child (MCH) oral health quality indicator is restricted to females ages 18–44. Additional information on the BRFSS is available [online](#).

---

<sup>32</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2015. [Chronic Disease Indicators: Indicator Definitions—Oral Health](#) [webpage].

<sup>33</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2015. [Chronic Disease Indicators: Indicator Definitions—Oral Health](#) [webpage].